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BC STATS
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Ministry of Labour and Citizens' Services

Infoline

Contact: bcstats.infoline@gov.bc.ca *Issue:* 07-29 *July 20, 2007*

- **BC's population among the oldest in the country; nearly 15% are seniors**
- **Inflation rate continues to fall in June**
- **Shipments and vehicle sales drop in May, but wholesale sales improve**

2006 Census of Canada

- **Canada's population is ageing quickly.** Census data for 2006 show that more than 4 million Canadians (nearly 14% of the population) are 65 and over. This is nearly double the 8% share recorded when the Census was taken fifty years earlier. Every province and territory has seen an increase in its seniors population.

  Almost as many (3.7 million) Canadians are approaching retirement. The fastest-growing age group consists of those aged 55 to 64 years. Between 2001 and 2006, this age group expanded 28.1%.

  The ageing of the population will have a significant effect on the demographics of the workforce in years to come. In the 1970s, there were 2.3 people aged 15 to 24 for every person between the ages of 55 and 54. By 2006 this ratio had fallen to 1.1, meaning there are now barely enough young people entering the working age group to replace those who are now nearing retirement. It is expected that the number of people aged 65 years and older will surpass the number of children (14 and younger) within 10 years.

  Data Source: 2006 Census of Canada

- **British Columbians are relatively old compared to other Canadians, with seniors making up nearly 15% of the population.** Of the 33 largest urban centres in Canada (those with a core population of more than 100,000), Kelowna has the highest proportion (19%) of seniors. Among mid-sized urban centres (with a population of more than 10,000), Parksville is one of the oldest. One in three residents of Parksville were seniors on Census Day, while 10% were 80 or older–the highest ratio in the country. *Data Source: 2006 Census of Canada*

Prices

- **British Columbia's year-over-year inflation rate continued to fall in June, dropping 0.2 percentage points to 1.5%.** This was largely due to energy costs, which eased slightly (-0.2%) last month. The inflation rate for goods and services other than energy inched up to 1.7%.

  The cost of food climbed 3.1% as grocery bills (+3.4%) and restaurant meals (+2.4%) were more pricey. Rising shelter costs (+2.0%) also helped push up the overall price level as the cost of both owned (+2.4%) and rented (+1.1%) accommodation continued to climb. Although British Columbians paid less for fuel oil & other fuels (-3.4%), other utilities such as water (+7.1%), electricity (+2.5%) and piped gas (+1.4%) took a slightly bigger bite out of the household budget.

  For the first time since November, drivers paid less at the pump (-1.3%), but transportation costs rose (+0.9 %) as prices for insuring (+1.4%) and maintaining & repairing (+6.7%) a motor vehicle rose.

  British Columbians paid more for alcohol & tobacco products (+2.9%), health & personal care (+1.6%) and recreation, education & reading (+1.5%) materials. However, prices for clothing & footwear (-2.5%) were lower than in June of last year.

  The inflation rate in Vancouver (+1.9%) was moderately higher than the provincial average, while Victoria's (+0.8%) was quite a bit lower.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Canadian prices were up 2.2% in June.** Food (+3.1%), shelter (+3.5%) and transportation (+1.6%) costs were all inflationary factors. Among the provinces, the biggest overall price

Report Ageing of BC's population

Did you know...

Two-thirds (66%) of British Columbians think it's okay to have conversations while wearing sunglasses, but far fewer find it acceptable to wear them at night (21%) *Source: Ipsos Canada*

increase was in Alberta, where the Consumer Price Index continued to soar (+6.3%), increasing at nearly three times the national average.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

The Economy

- **Shipments of goods manufactured in BC fell (-2.2%, *seasonally adjusted*) to $3.5 billion in May after two consecutive months of increases.** Pressures on manufacturers included a rapidly appreciating Canadian dollar, which reached a 30-year high of $0.9376 US at the end of May. Most manufacturing industries in the province posted declines. Shipments by wood manufacturers dropped sharply (-6.2%), while shipments by paper (-1.7%) and food (-3.8%) manufacturers were also down. Shipments by producers of computers and electronic products plunged 12.6%. Overall, manufacturers of durable goods saw the value of shipments fall back 2.3%, while shipments were down 2.0% in the non-durables sector.

  Canadian shipments were flat (-0.1%) in May. Durable goods (-1.2%) were the primary source of weakness, as producers of primary metals experienced one of the largest declines. Shipments of non-durable goods continued to strengthen (+1.2%) due to an increase in production at resource-based industries such as petroleum, chemical and plastic manufactures. Shipments were down in most provinces, but Newfoundland (+6.4%), together with the three Prairie provinces, posted an increase.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Wholesale sales in the province continued to see-saw in May, rising 0.9% (*seasonally adjusted*), following a downturn (-1.9%) in the previous month.** Total Canadian sales rebounded modestly (+0.6%) from the weaker April levels, with much of the increase attributable to sales in the machinery & electronic equipment sector (+2.1%). Although sales were up in Quebec (+1.7%) and Ontario (+0.8%) they fell in most other provinces, with the biggest declines seen in PEI (-5.6%) and Saskatchewan (-2.4%). *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Motor vehicle sales in BC stalled (-2.4%, *seasonally adjusted*) in May, dropping to 17,274 following strong sales growth (+6.1%) in April.** Fewer cars, both domestic and foreign, being driven off car lots in the province in May.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Tourism

- **Visitor entries to the province increased 1.9% (*seasonally adjusted*) in May, ending a three-month-long downturn in travel from other countries.** Despite the rising Canadian loonie, travel to BC from the US picked up (+1.7%) for the first time since January, while entries from overseas bounced back (+2.9%) after dropping in April. The number of Canadian travellers coming home via BC was up 1.1% in May.

  Data Source: Statistics Canada

Crime

- **British Columbia's crime rate declined five percent in 2006, dropping to 11,365 non-traffic crimes reported for every 100,000 people living in the province.** While the rate of violent crime was virtually unchanged from 2005 levels, property crime (-9.0%) and other criminal code offences (-1.0%) decreased.

  Among violent crimes, the rate of sexual assault (75 per 100,000 people) was notably lower than in 2005; however, incidents of robbery and homicide were up. There were 108 homicides reported in BC last year, more than in 2005, pushing the rate up six percent to 2.5 per 100,000 population. BC had the lowest homicide rate in western Canada last year; however, provincial rates remained higher in the West than in other parts of the country. Among provinces, Saskatchewan had the most homicides per 100,000 population (4.1), followed closely by Manitoba (3.3). PEI boasted the lowest homicide rate last year (0.7) and the national average was 1.9 per 100,000 population.

  BC (11,365 per 100,000 population) had the third highest overall crime rate of Canadian provinces, behind Saskatchewan (13,711) and Manitoba (11,678). The lowest crime rates were in Ontario (5,689) and Quebec (5,909), where the rates were about half as high as in BC.

  Source: SC, Cat. #85-002-XIE, Vol.27, no.5

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For data originating from Statistics Canada, data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the catalogue number.

Infoline Report

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Originally published in
Census Fast Facts Issue 2006-2

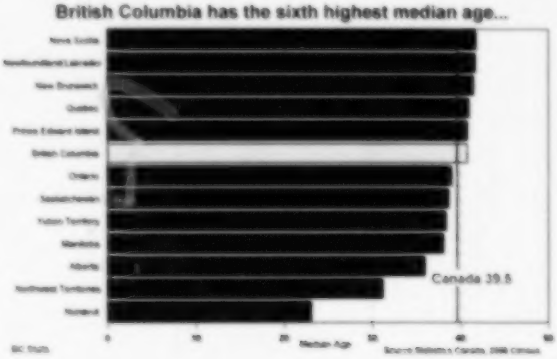
Ageing of the British Columbia Population

The population of British Columbia is ageing as the number of births decline relative to deaths and life expectancy increases. As this ageing progresses, the contribution of natural increase (births less deaths) to population growth becomes less significant, and migration, both interprovincial and international, becomes increasingly important as the driving force behind growth. Since migrants tend to be younger than the resident population, their addition to the province tends to slow the ageing process to a certain degree. Some areas of the province receive few migrants and are mainly dependent on natural increase for their growth, while other regions attract many migrants. The information recently released from the 2006 Census gives us a current snapshot of the age structure of the population in different parts of the province and shows the combined effects of these factors.

According to the 2006 Census, between 2001 and 2006, the provincial population grew by 5.3%. This was slightly lower than the national average of 5.4%, but higher than B.C.'s 1996–2001 growth rate of 4.9%.

For the first time, the Census reported British Columbia's median age (the age at which half the number of residents are older half are younger) passed 40 years old, measuring 40.8 years. Compared to other provinces and territories, B.C. had the sixth highest median age ('younger' than Quebec and the four Atlantic provinces), but it was older than the national average of 39.5. By this measure, Nova Scotia had the 'oldest' population structure (median age of 41.8), and Nunavut the 'youngest' (median age of 23.1).

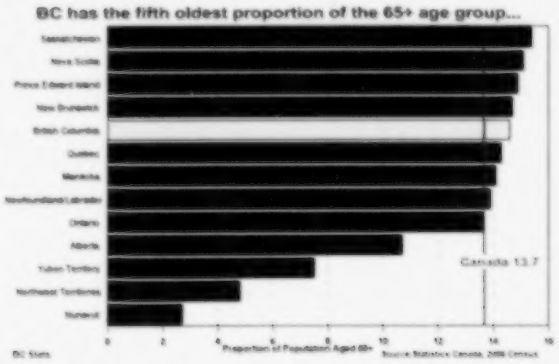
British Columbia has the sixth highest median age...



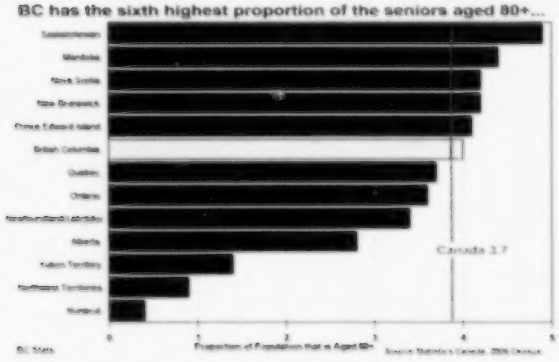
Looking at the population change by age group, growth was concentrated in the 45 and older age groups, with the older working-age population (ages 45–64) increasing 19.4% and seniors (ages 65 and over) increasing 12.5%. In 2006 the 45–64 age group represented 28.4% of the total population, while the 65 and over group was 14.6%. The oldest seniors population (aged 80 and over) expanded by 23.7%, going from representing 3.4% of the total population in 2001 to 4.0% in 2006. In the last five years, the younger working-age population (ages 15–44) actually declined by 1.4% (from 43.2% in 2001 to 40.5%), while the population under 15 decreased by 3.7% (from 18.1% in 2001 to 16.5%). This decline in the youth population results from B.C.'s relatively low fertility rate, cupled with the fact that the baby-boom 'bulge' has aged out of the fertile age groups.

If we look across the country at the proportion of the population that is aged 65 and over, B.C. has the fifth highest, at 14.6% (while the national average is 13.7%). Saskatchewan has the highest proportion—at 15.4%—and Nunavut has the smallest (at 2.7%). All three Territories have under 10% of their population aged 65 and over, while all three of the four Atlantic provinces are above 14.6%. Given that the Canadian Insti-

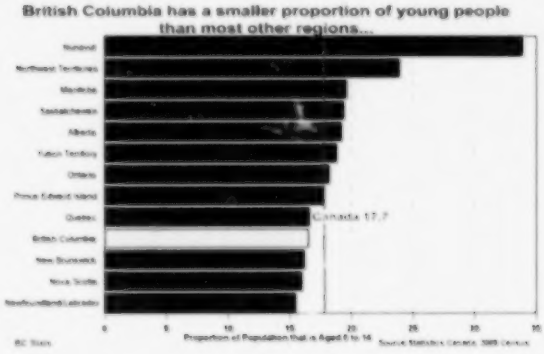
tute for Health Information attributes 44% of recent provincial health expenditures to the 65 and over population, the significant growth rates in this age group is of great interest for the delivery of health services.



Of the population in the 'oldest seniors' age group - aged 80 and over - B.C. ranks sixth among the provinces and territories. At a population percentage of 4%, B.C.'s proportion is greater than the Canadian average of 3.7%, with Saskatchewan again having the highest percentage at 4.9% and Nunavut the lowest (0.4%).



On the other hand, the proportion of the population of B.C. aged 0-14 is less than in most other areas of the country. At 16.5%, we have a lower proportion than the national average of 17.7%, and higher than three of the four Atlantic provinces. As noted earlier, B.C.'s proportion of 0-14 year olds declined between 2001 and 2006. Even though the number of 0-14's has shown increases and decreases in numbers from census to census in the last 35 years, since 1961 the age group has dropped as a percentage of the total population.



Regional Districts

Which parts of the province have the largest concentration of the different age groupings? The age structure of the province varies between the north and south, as factors such as the availability of different types of jobs, services required by different age groups, climate and so on play a role in the suitability of an area for people of different ages.

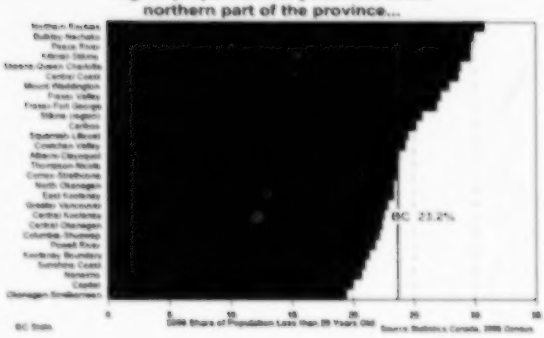
2006 Age Structure

Regional District	Percent				
	<20	20-44	45-64	65+	80+
Alberni-Clayoquot	23.8	29.0	31.6	15.7	3.8
Bulkley-Nechako	29.9	31.4	28.3	10.4	2.1
Capital	19.9	32.2	29.7	18.1	6.4
Cariboo	25.2	29.2	32.1	13.5	2.6
Central Coast	28.7	32.4	28.4	10.2	1.7
Central Kootenay	22.5	26.9	32.7	17.8	4.6
Central Okanagan	22.4	30.3	28.3	19.0	5.2
Columbia-Shuswap	22.1	26.5	32.6	18.7	4.3
Comox-Strathcona	23.5	27.6	32.8	16.0	3.9
Cowichan Valley	24.3	26.6	31.3	17.8	4.8
East Kootenay	23.3	29.9	31.9	14.9	3.7
Fraser Valley	27.2	33.0	25.2	14.6	4.0
Fraser-Fort George	26.9	35.1	28.7	9.4	1.8
Greater Vancouver	22.8	37.1	27.2	12.8	3.6
Kitimat-Stikine	29.7	31.2	29.0	10.1	1.8
Kootenay Boundary	21.3	24.7	33.8	20.2	5.5
Mount Waddington	27.9	30.8	32.8	8.5	1.2
Nanaimo	20.7	26.8	31.7	20.9	5.6
North Okanagan	23.3	27.1	30.4	19.2	5.2
Northern Rockies	30.8	42.9	22.6	3.3	0.7
Okanagan-Similkameen	19.4	23.2	31.1	26.3	7.7
Peace River	29.7	36.8	24.7	8.8	1.8
Powell River	21.8	23.9	34.7	19.6	5.1
Skeena-Queen Charlotte	28.9	31.4	29.8	9.9	2.1
Squamish-Lillooet	24.5	43.1	24.9	7.5	1.5
Stikine (region)	25.7	31.5	31.5	9.9	1.4
Sunshine Coast	20.9	23.0	35.5	20.5	5.5
Thompson-Nicola	23.6	30.7	30.6	15.1	3.4
British Columbia	**23.2**	**33.8**	**28.4**	**14.6**	**4.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada
Prepared by: BC Stats

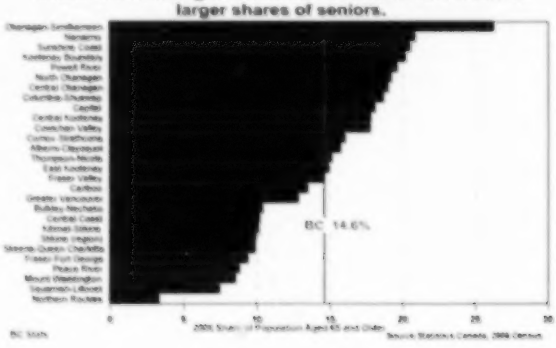
Among the 28 Regional Districts, the Northern Rockies has almost 31% of their population who are less 20 years old, while Okanagan-Similkameen and Capital have less than 20% of their population in this group.

Higher proportions of youth live in the northern part of the province...



On the other hand, Okanagan-Similkameen, as was the case in 2001, is the Regional District with the largest share of seniors (26.3% of its population), followed by Nanaimo and Sunshine Coast. At the other extreme, only 3.3% of Northern Rockies population, 7.5% of Squamish-Lillooet and 8.5% of Mount Waddington are over the age of 65.

...While the Okanagan and Vancouver Island are home to larger shares of seniors.



Municipalities

At the time of the 2006 Census there were 157 incorporated municipalities in the province. Municipalities range in size from the City of Vancouver with over half a million people to municipalities that have a population of less than 1,000.

There are a number of municipalities that have traditionally had high concentrations of seniors. This has not changed dramatically in 2006 but Qualicum Beach, with 41.1% of its population 65 years of age and over, has continued to top the list of places with the largest proportion of seniors. The median age increased to a remarkable 60.9 years, with Keremeos close behind at 59.4 years. In 2006 Keremeos, Osoyoos, Sidney, and Oliver also had more than 35% of their population over the age of 65. At the other extreme, Telkwa, Anmore, and Taylor all have less than 3% of their population over 65 years old.

A number of northern communities have the highest proportion of children: Telkwa (36%), Fort Nelson, New Hazelton and Chetwynd (34%). Communities with relatively few children are in many cases those with a large share of seniors, such as White Rock, Osoyoos and Qualicum Beach.

Data on mobility and migration, available in December 2007, will provide information on how these factors have influenced population growth and the age structure of different parts of the province, and will be covered in future Census Fast Fact releases.

2006 Age Structure

Municipality	Percent <20	20-44	45-64	65+	80+
Oldest					
Qualicum Beach	13.8	13.4	31.7	**41.1**	11.1
Keremeos	15.1	16.3	29.1	**40.7**	11.2
Osoyoos	13.1	16.7	33.0	**36.9**	9.9
Sidney	16.3	20.7	27.5	**35.4**	16.3
Oliver	18.6	19.5	26.9	**35.2**	11.4
Parksville	17.1	20.1	29.2	**33.6**	10.3
Creston	17.7	20.8	28.4	**33.2**	11.4
Chase	19.5	21.0	28.9	**30.8**	8.3
New Denver	16.7	15.7	39.2	**29.4**	10.8
Greenwood	15.2	17.6	39.2	**28.8**	3.2
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Port McNeil	**29.7**	33.7	30.5	5.5	0.6
Smithers	**30.4**	33.6	25	11.1	3.4
Fort Nelson	**30.5**	44.9	21.4	3.1	0.8
Terrace	**30.5**	31.8	26.8	11	2.6
Burns Lake	**31.1**	35.2	20.9	13.1	4.5
Chetwynd	**31.3**	37.2	24.1	7.6	1.5
Vanderhoof	**31.4**	33.4	24.4	11.3	2.6
Taylor	**31.4**	39.7	23.5	5.8	1.1
Anmore	**33.3**	33.9	28.6	5.9	0.6
Telkwa	**34.7**	33.2	25.9	6.6	1.5
Youngest					
British Columbia	**23.2**	33.8	**28.4**	**14.6**	**4.0**

Source: Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada
Prepared by: BC Stats

	Total			
	Median Age	2006 counts	% distribution (2006)	% change (2001-2006)
Canada	39.5	31,612,895	100	5.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	41.7	505,470	100	-1.5
Prince Edward Island	40.8	135,855	100	0.4
Nova Scotia	41.8	913,460	100	0.6
New Brunswick	41.5	729,995	100	0.1
Quebec	41.0	7,546,135	100	4.3
Ontario	39.0	12,160,280	100	6.6
Manitoba	38.1	1,148,400	100	2.6
Saskatchewan	38.7	968,155	100	-1.1
Alberta	36.0	3,290,350	100	10.6
British Columbia	**40.8**	**4,113,485**	**100**	**5.3**
Yukon Territory	38.4	30,375	100	5.9
Northwest Territories	31.2	41,465	100	11.0
Nunavut	23.1	29,475	100	10.2

Sources: Statistics Canada; censuses of population; 2001 and 2006.

	Age Group: 0 to 14			Age group: 15 to 64		
	2006 counts	% distribution (2006)	% change (2001-2006)	2006 counts	% distribution (2006)	% change (2001-2006)
Canada	5,579,835	17.7	-2.5	21,697,805	68.6	6.4
Newfoundland and Labrador	78,230	15.5	-11.9	356,975	70.6	-1.1
Prince Edward Island	23,985	17.7	-10.0	91,685	67.5	1.8
Nova Scotia	146,435	16.0	-11.3	628,815	68.8	2.0
New Brunswick	118,255	16.2	-9.1	504,110	69.1	0.7
Quebec	1,252,510	16.6	-3.0	5,213,335	69.1	4.6
Ontario	2,210,800	18.2	-1.0	8,300,300	68.3	7.7
Manitoba	225,175	19.6	-3.7	761,340	66.3	4.4
Saskatchewan	187,695	19.4	-9.4	631,155	65.2	1.1
Alberta	631,515	19.2	2.3	2,305,425	70.1	12.5
British Columbia	**679,605**	**16.5**	**-3.7**	**2,834,075**	**68.9**	**6.2**
Yukon Territory	5,720	18.8	-5.2	22,365	73.6	7.0
Northwest Territories	9,920	23.9	-1.9	29,570	71.3	15.4
Nunavut	10,000	33.9	0.8	18,660	63.3	15.0
	Age group: 65 and over			**Age group: 80 and over**		
	2006 counts	% distribution (2006)	% change (2001-2006)	2006 counts	% distribution (2006)	% change (2001-2006)
Canada	4,335,255	13.7	11.5	1,167,310	3.7	25.2
Newfoundland and Labrador	70,265	13.9	11.4	17,075	3.4	14.1
Prince Edward Island	20,185	14.9	8.7	5,610	4.1	9.0
Nova Scotia	138,210	15.1	9.2	38,480	4.2	12.4
New Brunswick	107,635	14.7	8.8	30,305	4.2	16.3
Quebec	1,080,285	14.3	12.6	276,055	3.7	28.4
Ontario	1,649,180	13.6	12.0	442,080	3.6	29.9
Manitoba	161,890	14.1	3.5	50,290	4.4	13.8
Saskatchewan	149,305	15.4	1.2	47,920	4.9	8.5
Alberta	353,410	10.7	14.6	92,615	2.8	26.5
British Columbia	**599,810**	**14.6**	**12.5**	**165,980**	**4.0**	**23.7**
Yukon Territory	2,290	7.5	32.4	420	1.4	40.0
Northwest Territories	1,975	4.8	20.8	385	0.9	28.3
Nunavut	810	2.7	35.0	105	0.4	31.3

Sources: Statistics Canada; censuses of population; 2001 and 2006.

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also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/07	% change on one year ago
BC	4,352.8	1.3
Canada	32,852.8	1.0
GDP and INCOME (Released Apr 25)		
(BC - at market prices)	2006	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	179,701	6.4
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	150,741	3.6
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	34,971	2.3
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	21,984	4.8
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	3,500	-2.2
Merchandise Exports - May	2,807	-6.2
Retail Sales - Apr	4,707	1.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX	% change on	12-month avg
(all items - Jun 2007)	one year ago	% change
BC	1.5	1.8
Vancouver	1.9	2.2
Victoria	0.8	1.4
Canada	2.2	1.8
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '07	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,365	0.1
Employed - BC	2,260	-0.1
Unemployed - BC	105	5.9
		May '07
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	4.4	4.2
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.1	6.1
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 18/07	Jul 19/06
Prime Business Rate	6.25	6.00
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.05	6.60
- 5 year	7.24	6.95
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 18/07	Jul 19/06
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.0437	1.1353
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.9573	0.8812
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '07	one year ago
BC	740.27	2.4
Canada	749.92	3.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Regional Employment Projections

BC Stats, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Advanced Education, developed the Regional Employment Projection Model (REPM), designed to project industrial and occupational employment in regions of the Province of British Columbia. The model projects employment at the Regional District level and then aggregates back up to the College Region for reporting purposes.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repm.asp

Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices

The 2006 edition of these widely-monitored reports provide the most complete and up-to-date basis for measuring and comparing the social and economic dimensions of regions in the province. Released April 4.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

High Technology Sector—2006

The high technology sector is a growing part of British Columbia's diverse economy, offering the prospect of strong economic growth in the years to come, as well as a local source of technology inputs to the province's resource-based industries.

Our latest *Profile* and *Input Indicators* reports are now available.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/bus_stat/busind/hi_tech.asp

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